

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3155

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 506

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, WB, GW

SUBJECT: FEDERAL PRESENCE IN BERLIN: ESTABLISHMENT OF GERMAN
ART AND CULTURE FOUNDATION IN BERLIN

REF: BERLIN 495

1. HERMANN KREUTZER, RESIDENT HEAD OF FEDERAL REPRESENTATION (BUNDESHAUS) IN BERLIN, CALLED ON POLAD MARCH 19 TO INFORM HIM ABOUT STATUS OF PLANS FOR ESTABLISHMENT IN BERLIN OF NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR GERMAN ART AND CULTURE (REFTEL). KREUTZER SAID HE HAD SPOKEN QUITE RECENTLY WITH INTERIOR MINISTER GENSCHER, WHOSE MINISTRY WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOUNDATION ("FEDERFUEHREND"), AND GENSCHER HAD INDICATED THAT HE ENVISIONED SUBMISSION OF DRAFT LAW ESTABLISHING FOUNDATION TO CABINET IN MAY OR JUNE, WITH EXPECTATION LAW WOULD REACH BUNDESTAG IN FALL. KREUTZER EXPECTED THAT TWO YEARS OF PREPARATIONS WOULD
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BE NECESSARY BEFORE FOUNDATION COULD ACTUALLY BEGIN

OPERATIONS.

2. KREUTZER SAID HE PLANNED TO CONSULT WITH VARIOUS LAENDER, AS WELL AS ALL THREE POLITICAL PARTIES IN BUNDESTAG, BEFORE DRAFT LAW WAS SUBMITTED TO CABINET. (HE WILL BRIEF SPD BUNDESTAG FRAKTION ABOUT PLANS MARCH 21 IN BONN). HE HOPED THAT AGREEMENT AMONG THREE PARTIES WOULD BE POSSIBLE BEFORE LAW WAS SUBMITTED TO BUNDESTAGE. IN RESPONSE TO POLAD'S QUERY, HE VOICED CONFIDENCE THAT STRONG INTER-PARTY SUPPORT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. KREUTZER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SPECIAL SENSITIVITIES OBTAINED IN WAKE OF ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE (FEA) ISSUE, AND AGREED THAT CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH ALLIES IN ADVANCE OF ANY ACTION ON FOUNDATION WAS ESSENTIAL.

3. KREUTZER STRESSED THAT LAW ESTABLISHING FOUNDATION WOULD NOT INCLUDE DESIGNATION OF SITE OF HEAD-QUARTERS, WHICH WOULD BE DETERMINED AT LATER DATE, WHEN ORGANIZATIONAL DETAILS WERE ESTABLISHED IN ENABLING LEGISLATION. IN WAS HOPED, KREUTZER SAID, THAT BY AVOIDING MENTION OF SITE, PITFALLS EXPERIENCED WITH FEA COULD BE AVOIDED. KREUTZER SAID HE ALSO HOPED PRESS COULD BE PERSUADED TO AVOID SPECULATION ABOUT BERLIN AS POSSIBLE SITE AND THUS FORESTALL NEGATIVE SOVIET AND EAST GERMAN REACTIONS. POLAD COMMENTED THAT IT SEEMED MOST UNLIKELY TO HIM THAT QUESTION OF SITE COULD SUCCESSFULLY BE PIGEON-HOLED IN THIS MANNER; MOREOVER, IF RPT IF IT WERE DECIDED THAT THERE WAS NO OBJECTION TO ESTABLISHING FOUNDATION IN BERLIN, IT COULD BE ARGUED THAT IT WOULD BE TACTICALLY PREFERABLE TO REVEAL PLAN IN ITS ENTIRETY RATHER THAN PLAY CAT-AND-MOUSE WITH QUESTION OF LOCATION.

4. KREUTZER CONFIRMED THAT BERLIN WAS DEFINITELY INTENDED AS SITE OF FOUNDATION HEADQUARTERS, BOTH TO DEVELOP BERLIN-FRG TIES AND BECAUSE OF ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF FOUNDATION. CONTRARY TO EARLIER PLANS, HE SAID, FOUNDATION WOULD NOT ABSORB STIFTUNG PREUSSISCHER KULTURBESITZ, BUT TWO ORGANIZATIONS
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WOULD SHARE ADMINISTRATIVE APPARATUS AND BE HEADED BY SAME PERSON.

5. KREUTZER SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH BUNDESTAG PRESIDENT RENGGER IDEA OF HOUSING FOUNDATION IN REICHSTAG BUILDING. ACCORDING TO KREUTZER, SHE SUPPORTED IDEA BUT TOLD HIM THAT DECISION MUST BE MADE BY BUNDESTAG PRESIDUM. KREUTZER SAID HE EXPECTED

FIRST REACTION FROM GDR WOULD BE TO PROTEST AND THAT IT WAS LIKELY GDR RESPONSE WOULD BE TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ARTS IN EAST BERLIN.

6. KREUTZER LEFT 15-PAGE "PRIVATE" PAPER GIVING HIS VIEWS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF FOUNDATION. (MISSION FURNISHING COPIES TO BONN AND DEPARTMENT.) HE PROMISED TO KEEP US INFORMED AS PLANS PROGRESSED. POLAD SAID HE WOULD REPORT CONVERSATION TO BONN AND EXPECTED SUBJECT WOULD BE RAISED FOR EARLY DISCUSSION IN BONN GROUP.BORG

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